

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE

NEA - AGRIFIN (PHONE)

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P 232116Z SEP 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 236623 TOSEC 270651

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 12867 ACTIONSECSTATE DTD 23 SEP 76.

QTE: S E C R E T CAIRO 12867

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND AMBASSADOR EILTS
FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJ: FAHMY'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT

REF: STATE 235242

1. IN MEETING WITH FAHMY THIS MORNING I
INFORMED HIM THAT PRESIDENT FORD WISHED TO MEET WITH
HIM IN WASHINGTON AND SUGGESTED OCTOBER 2 AT 1000A.M.
FAHMY WAS VERY PLEASED BY THIS NEWS AND ASKED ME TO
EXPRESS HIS RESPECT AND HIGH REGARD TO PRESIDENT
FORD. FAHMY SAID HE WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO HAVE THIS
MEETING IF IN FACT HE GOES TO THE US. HOWEVER,
HIS TRAVEL S PLANS WERE VERY UNCERTAIN AND HE DID NOT
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KNOW WHETHER HE WOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE AREA

BECAUSE OF EGYPT'S DEEP INVOLVEMENT IN TRYING TO RESOLVE LEBANESE CRISIS. FAHMY SAID HE WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON AND SUBSEQUENT BILATERAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 27. WHILE HE REGRETTED NOT BEING ABLE TO MAKE THIS DATE, HE FELT THAT THE LEBANESE SITUATION WAS PERHAPS AT TURNING POINT AND THAT HE HAD A DUTY TO TRY HIS BEST TO BRING ABOUT A RESOLUTION. FAHMY WENT ON THAT THERE MIGHT BE A SIX-POWER-MINI-SUMMIT AFTER BAIRAM FESTIVITIES AND THEN POSSIBLY AN ARAB SUMMIT MEETING. FAHMY WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS NOT REALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ATTENDING UNGA FOR TWO REASONS: (1) IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO COME UP WITH NEW IDEAS FOR SETTLEMENT IN MIDEAST AS LONG AS THE LEBANESE CRISIS CONTINUED; (2) THE ELECTIONS IN THE US WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR US TO REACT TO ANY PROPOSALS HE MIGHT MAKE CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. FAHMY THEN EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL HOPE THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL BE ELECTED AND NOTED THAT THE POLLS SEEM TO INDICATE A NARROWING OF GOVERNOR CARTER'S LEAD. I TOLD FAHMY OF THE DEBATE THAT IS SCHEDULED FOR THIS EVENING AND HE EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN IT. I TOLD HIM I WOULD PROVIDE HIM WITH THE TEXT OF THE DEBATE AS SOON AS I RECEIVED IT

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FAHMY WAS CLEARLY GRATIFIED BY OFFER OF A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND WAS SORELY TEMPTED TO TRY TO FIT IN A QUICK VISIT TO US IN ORDER TO SEE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY I BELIEVE IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT HE WILL IN FACT BE ABLE TO GO. IN ANY CASE HE WILL NOT BE IN NEW YORK BY SEPTEMBER 27. FOLLOWING ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THIS ONE AND ONE -HALF HOUR MEETING. OFFER OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD GOT OUR DISCUSSION OFF TO A GOOD START AND SET TONE FOR AMICABLE MEETING. MATTHEWS
UNQTE:ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE236623
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:LRMACFARLANE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760360-0041
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760926/aaaaavyd.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 235242
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAHMY'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
TAGS: PFOR, EG, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006